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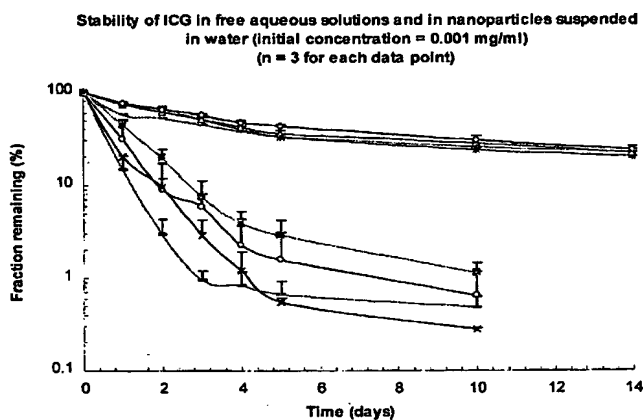
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(54) Title: NANOPARTICLE BASED STABILIZATION OF IR FLUORESCENT DYES



(57) Abstract: This invention relates to a highly effective nanoparticle system for stabilizing near-infrared (near-IR) fluorescent dyes such as indocyanine (ICG) in order to enhance the dye's utility for biomedical application. This invention further relates to nanoparticles comprised of biodegradable polymer materials such as poly(dl-lactide-co-glycolide)(PLGA). The invention also relates to methods of preparing the nanoparticle-entrapped dyes, as well as methods for using them in bioimaging, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. The present invention also relates to compositions and kits comprising nanoparticle-entrapped dyes.



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